



May 15, 2023

Dear Neighbors,

There is about one month before the legislative session concludes in mid-June. I'm working to move many critical bills over the finish line this session, and I look forward to sharing updates with you when bills pass.

Anna in the News

Pennsylvania Environmental Resources and Energy Committee Testimony

Last week I had the opportunity to [testify virtually](#) at the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Environmental Resources and Energy Committee public hearing on cryptocurrency mining. As Pennsylvania lawmakers contemplate their current practice of incentivizing burning coal refuse, which privately owned crypto mining companies use to power their operations, I spoke about the harmful impact that current crypto data mining practices have on the environment and the lack of economic benefit. States will struggle to meet their climate goals with the energy-intensive demands of proof-of-work cryptocurrency data mining, which uses more energy for processing than Google, Amazon, and Facebook combined.



Around the District

Starbucks Closures in Ithaca

I stood with workers and concerned citizens in September 2022 when Starbucks closed their first location in Ithaca, a mere two months after its staff were involved in a successful vote for unionization. I was troubled this week to learn that Starbucks will be closing its two remaining branches in Ithaca. It is clear that these closures are retaliatory actions by Starbucks against the unionizing of its employees. I stand in solidarity with workers who choose to unionize. Employees deserve to have pride in their work, safety in

the workplace, and integrity from those they work for. My [full statement](#) is available online.



Visit with P-TECH Students

I had the opportunity to visit the P-TECH program at Tompkins Cortland Community College this week and speak with the students and teachers. P-TECH (Pathways in Technology Early College High School) is a collaboration between TST BOCES, TC3 and industry partners that provides career-oriented education to high school students. The students who gave the tour were gracious and extremely knowledgeable, and the facilities TC3 has created for the PTECH program are top notch. It was evident in speaking with the teachers that they have a clear passion for their work and love for their students. We are really lucky to have this program in our community!



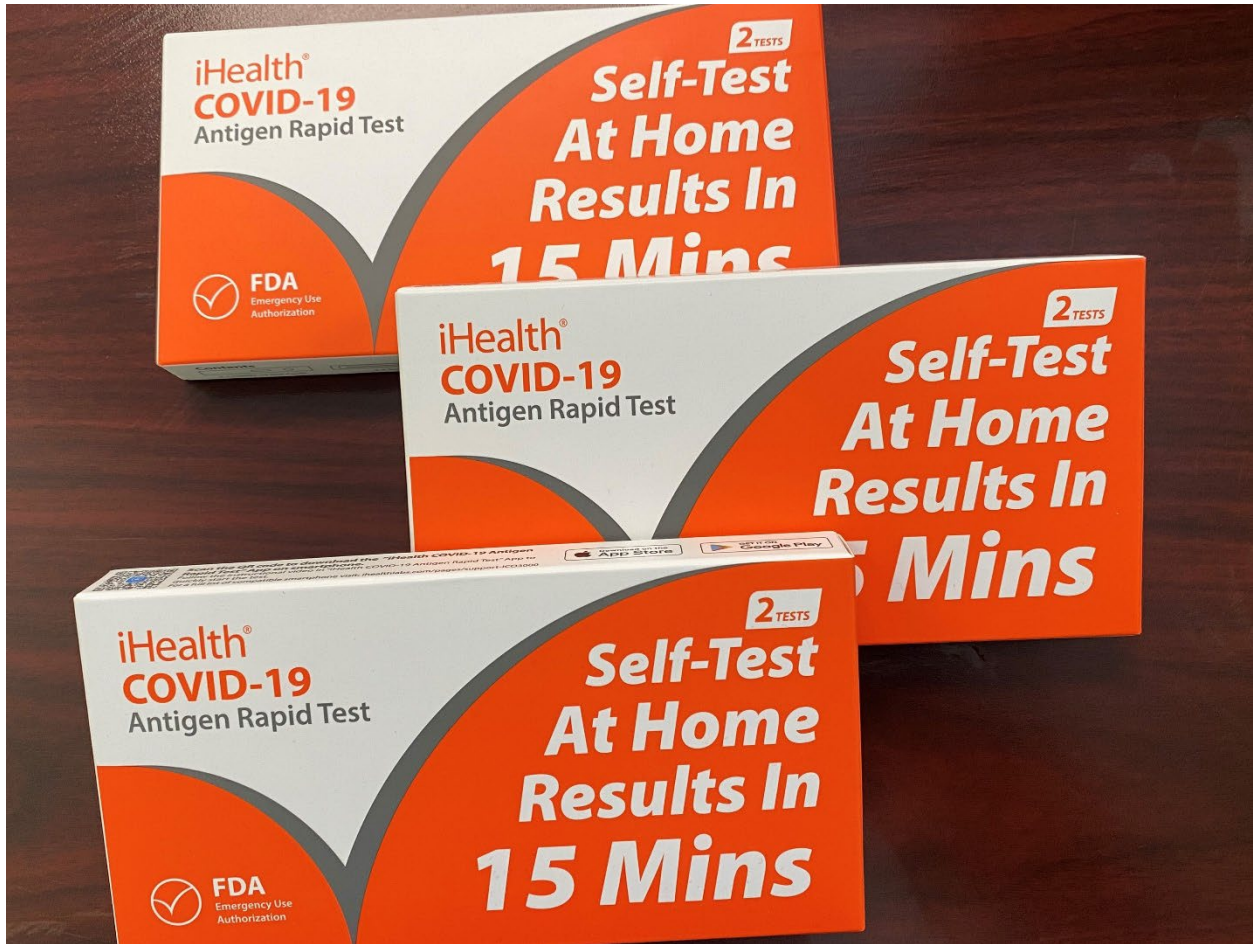
School Board Elections

School Board Elections and School Budget Votes will be held in the school districts throughout Tompkins and Cortland counties this **Tuesday, May 16**. If you are not sure of your voting location or the hours, contact your school district's administrative offices. I encourage you to learn about the candidates in your district, review the budget materials provided from your district, and vote. Your participation in the process is critical to the success of our schools.

Community Resources

COVID-19 Test Kits Available in District Offices

With the Federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency declaration ending on May 11, 2023, insurance providers no longer are required to waive costs or provide free COVID-19 tests. However, my district offices have a limited supply of at-home tests still available for free to individuals or organizations. If interested in receiving a supply, please contact the district offices in Ithaca (607-277-8033) or Cortland (607-208-2024).



Heat Pumps for 50 Mobile Homes in Tompkins County: Stay Cool in Summer, Warm in Winter!

A new program from Sustainable Finger Lakes will help 50 low-to-moderate income mobile home owners in Tompkins County upgrade their homes with high-efficiency heat pumps and electric panel upgrades. These home energy improvements can provide income-qualified mobile home residents with year-round comfortable temperatures, healthier air quality, long-term affordability, and an alternative to fossil fuels. Mobile home owners in Tompkins County can find out if they are eligible for the program by [scheduling a 15 minute phone call](#) with the Project Coordinator. For additional information visit [Sustainable Finger Lakes](#) or contact [Holly Hutchinson](#). This project is funded in part by the Tompkins County Legislature via the Tompkins Community Recovery Fund.

2nd Annual Enfield Spring Rhubarb Festival – Saturday, May 20

Celebrate spring and everything rhubarb at the 2nd Annual Enfield Spring Rhubarb Festival on Saturday, May 20 at the Enfield Community Center, 162 Enfield Main Road in Ithaca, NY. Festival activities will include a rhubarb tasting tent, sales of rhubarb pies, fresh rhubarb and plants, a craft show and more! All proceeds benefit Enfield youth and community programs and the Enfield Community Center. For more details, visit the [event's Facebook page](#).

As we celebrated Mother's Day this weekend, I want to thank and celebrate all the women in the district who care for our community – biological and adoptive mothers, stepmothers, foster mothers, grandmothers, mentors, and the innumerable women without a title who guide and care for others. Thank you for all the ways you work and lead and sacrifice to make the 125th District a caring and compassionate community. It continues to be my honor to serve you.

In solidarity and health,



Anna Kelles, Ph.D.

Assemblymember, 125th A.D.

ALBANY OFFICE
LOB 833
Albany, NY 12248
518-455-5444

CORTLAND OFFICE
83 Main St
PO Box 5026
Cortland, NY 13045
607-208-2024

ITHACA OFFICE
106 East Court Street
Ithaca, NY 14850
607-277-8030

Assembly District 125 | kellesa@nyassembly.gov